

Donald W. Parry & Emanuel Tov, in association with Geraldine I. Clements, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*. Second edition, revised and expanded. 2 volumes. paperback (Leiden: Brill, 2014). 9789004264687 (set). €250,00 \$349.00

Volume 1 *Texts Concerned with Religious Law, Exegetical Texts and Parabiblical Texts*. xxx, 1102 pp. ISBN 9789004264618. €149,00 \$199.00

Volume 2 *Calendrical Texts and Sapiential Texts, Poetic and Liturgical Texts, Additional Genres and Unclassified Texts*. xxxiv, 1150 pp. ISBN 9789004264625. €149,00 \$199.00

This two-volume second edition of *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader* (DSSR II) replaces the six-volume first edition (DSSR I) which was published in 2004 and 2005. The paperback quality of DSSR II is much better than that of DSSR I. Whereas DSSR I had low-quality paper pages which easily detached from the spine, DSSR II has a higher-quality paper, and is bound more sturdily. The DSSR II volumes open easily on one's desk (they are too heavy to use in the hand), without the risk of pages detaching from the spine. Though of a higher quality, the list price of the set is cheaper. The set price of €281 for DSSR I, has slightly dropped to €250 for DSSR II. One shortcoming of DSSR I remains. The edition does not have an index of texts which refers to the pages in the volumes. One can find in the index only in which volume it is published, but then has to scan the table of contents (many pages!) of that particular volume.

As for the content changes in DSSR II, the introduction to the second edition conveniently describes and lists in detail the revisions and expansions. In brief, those are the following (I am summarizing the editors' list with some comments):

(1) DSSR II replaces preliminary editions of DSSR I with published editions. This goes for Emile Puech's transcriptions of Aramaic texts that were published in *DJD* 37 (roughly 4Q550-4Q587, as well as some other Aramaic fragments of earlier published texts found in the *DJD* 35 appendices). These transcriptions are accompanied by English translations provided by E. Cook, D. Parry, J. Lake, and M. Abegg, which are superior to some of the earlier translations in DSSR I. The edition also has the new text and translation of the Cave 1 Hodayot scroll, so that, after the *DJD* 40 edition, and the SBL study edition, the new text and reference system is also used in another major collection. DSSR II contains some new editions of texts (taken from the Princeton Theological Seminary Dead Sea Scrolls Project edition) that were originally published by Allegro in *DJD* 5. Note, however, that most of those "new" editions of *DJD* 5 texts are themselves relatively old, and in some cases (4Q175) the transcription is largely identical to that of Allegro in *DJD* 5.

(2) DSSR II presents improved or revised texts. Tov and Parry list: 4Q159, 4Q164, 4Q169, 4Q184, 4Q394-399, 4Q409, and 4Q413. These improvements/revisions are by M. Bernstein, S. Tzoref, E. Tigchelaar.

(3) DSSR II features texts not published in DSSR I. Those include some of the manuscripts from *DJD* 37, as well as many of the unclassified texts without specific names, such as the fragments from *DJD* 33, which were omitted from DSSR I.

(4) DSSR II reassembles segmented texts. Thus, whereas 1QS was segmented in three parts in DSSR I (1QS I 1-III 12 Serekh ha-Yaḥad and 1QS V 1 - XI 22 Serekh le'anshey ha-Yaḥad in vol. 1; and as 1QS III 12 - IV 26 Treatise of the Two Spirits in vol. 4), it is now one running text in DSSR II vol. 1. Of course, some texts are still segmented: thus – in accordance with the publication in *DJD* – the

text consisting of 4Q259 and 4Q319 is published in the different sections of Community Rules and calendrical texts.

(5) *DSSR II* deletes extremely fragmentary texts.

(6) *DSSR II* updates names of compositions. Parry and Tov record this for 4Q168, 4Q176, 4Q180, 4Q181, and 4Q183. All these concern reeditions from the Princeton project, and adopt the names given in that project. This also goes for 4Q173a. Some of those Princeton names, like “House of Stumbling Frg.” and “4QWicked and Holy” are not very felicitous.

(7) *DSSR II* now provides precise indicators of the biblical quotations in the *Pesharim* and commentaries.

(8) In *DSSR II* indecipherable Hebrew words or letters are usually transliterated.

Except for (6), all those revisions and expansions are very welcome changes. This goes in particular for (1) and (4). Students and scholars now have an even better access to the Dead Sea Scrolls as published in the authoritative *DJD* volumes, and many students will be more at ease with the English translations of the Aramaic texts. Of course, some scholars may be disappointed that the many suggested corrections or improvements on readings, reconstructions, significantly improved editions (for example, for the Temple Scroll Yadin's edition is the one used), or identifications, have only rarely been included in this volume, even those that have been recorded in Tov's *Revised Lists of the Texts from the Judaean Desert*. Thus, several of the fragments from *DJD* 33 which now have been included (see above sub 3), have been identified, and even have received item numbers in Tov's list, but still are presented here as they were in *DJD* 33. That, however, is the principle of this reader, to reproduce the *DJD* transcriptions and translations, although there have been some revisions (see above sub 2). There are other editions which at specific points offer alternative, and sometimes better texts, and serious scholars should use also those and the sundry articles in journals and books. For a broader audience of students and scholars, however, the *DSSR II* remains a great first tool, in presenting the most complete collection of texts and fragments according to the editions that are broadly held to be authoritative.